

Speech of Mr. Unison Whiteman, Grenada.

March 19, 1981.

Brother Chairman, distinguished delegates all,

In the long history of the exploitation of man by man one of the great injustices of all time is colonialism. The legal and political domination of one people by another. We believe that all peoples have the right to self determination not later, but now, not tomorrow, but today. All peoples have the right to legally determine their own futures without strings, without conditions, without pre-conditions. This is our firm and uncompromising belief. As a party, as a member of the Socialist International, and of the non-aligned movement, we support the right of all colonized peoples everywhere to full independence.

Well most parts of the world, Africa, Asia, for instance, and moved forward to full legal and formal independence. It is amazing that in this region of the world, one of the most colonized regions of all times, the disease of colonialism is still active here. This contradiction must be rectified, must be corrected urgently.

For instance, there is the question of Belize, we have historically supported Belize's right to independence at the United Nations, at the non-aligned movement, and elsewhere. In fact we have at this moment, as I speak to you, a Senior Government Minister in Belize taking part in talks on this matter. We shall continue to give the cause of Belize full support until this matter has been resolved to Belize's satisfaction.

Of course, when we speak of independence we do not refer to a mere legal and constitutional concept. Although that in itself is an important step forward. Experience show that in many cases the small lites, domestic and foreigner, including the multinationals sometimes continue to run the so called sovereign states long after independence. And the times actually even increase the economic and political stronger hold over the broad people. In such cases colonialism is merely replaced by new colonialism and the basic socio-economic structures remain as before with virtually no noticeable improvement in the condition of the working people.

Therefore, as we struggle for independence we must also set our eyes on a new society and see independence as an important step in removing the obstacles to social progress and in building that new society. As we struggle for independence, we all know that we are struggling to build popular and broad based structures. Structures that will open opportunities, not just for a tiny elite, but for the broad people who have not had opportunities on the colonialism, and therefore must have socio-economic opportunities now.

Independence is an important step to bring opportunities for the people, including dignity and national self respect.

There is another point which our party wishes to make, Comrade Chairman, it is that when the colonial masters withdraw as a must, it is their duty, it is their responsibility to make grants of resources to the ex-colonies to insure their economic diversification and development of the new states. This is a death the colonizers put to humanity.

Finally, consistent with our belief in self-determination and independence for all peoples, we are very proud to note the massive support, 80%, given by the people of Aruba for independence for Aruba, a cause being led by M.E.P., under our distinguished leader Betico Croes, a fraternal party of Socialist International, and the host party of the Conference. We support this legitimate aspiration of M.E.P. and of the Aruban people in accordance with whatever timetable they set for themselves. And therefore let us press on to build a world where colonialism and neo-colonialism, are injustices of the past. Long live the struggle of the Aruban people. Long live the aspirations of the people of Puerto Rico. Long live M.E.P. Long live Socialist International. Thank you very much, Comrade Chairman.